

HB 6645

March 19, 2013

Dear Sirs:

As a practicing Neurologist for 23 years I am well acquainted with end of life issues, including painful deaths and slow deaths from Alzheimer's dementia.

Physician assisted suicide is wrong for many reasons. As physicians we are entrusted to care for our patients with compassion and knowledge. This would destroy the trust that is the cornerstone of the physician-patient relationship.

The options of palliative end of life care and hospice care allow patients and their families a more peaceful and pain-free death. My patient families involved in hospice have all welcomed and needed the additional support at these trying times.

As a Catholic, I cannot participate in actively ending a person's life. It is against my Faith and my moral convictions.

As a physician, this is against all that I swore to at my graduation from Albany Medical College. First, I am to do no harm.

I urge you to vote against passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Puglia, M.D.

New Milford, CT